

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

As used herein, "preptin" is an isolated peptide of 34 amino acids in length, the sequence of which is described as in formula (I) (SEQ ID NO:4):

Asp Val Ser Thr R₁ R₂ R₃ Val Leu Pro Asp R₄ Phe Pro Arg Tyr Pro Val Gly Lys
Phe Phe R₅ R₆ Asp Thr Trp R₇ Gln Ser R₈ R₉ Arg Leu formula (I)

Wherein wherein:

R₁ is Ser or Pro

R₂ is Gln or Pro

R₃ is Ala or Thr

R₄ is Asp or Asn

R₅ is Gln or Lys

R₆ is Tyr or Phe

R₇ is Arg or Lys

R₈ is Ala or Thr, and

R₉ is Gly or Gln;

or an analog thereof.

It includes mouse preptin, rat preptin, and human preptin, the sequence of which are shown below.

Mouse preptin: DVSTSQAVLPDDFPRYPVGKFFQYDTWRQSAGRL (SEQ ID NO:1)

Rat preptin: DVSTSQAVLPDDFPRYPVGKFFKFDTWRSAGRL (SEQ ID NO:2)

Human preptin: DVSTPPTVLDPDNFPRYPVGKFFQYDTWKQSTQRL (SEQ ID NO:3)

The amino acid sequence corresponds to Asp₆₉-Leu₁₀₂ of the proIGF-II E-peptide in each mammal.